

17 Mar 77

CIA 1.04 Phillips David
~~Society of the Night~~
watch
Oswald, Lee, Harvey

Ex-CIA Aide Doubts Oswald Link to Cuba

Associated Press

The man who headed covert CIA operations in Mexico City in 1963 says Lee Harvey Oswald neither asked for nor received any aid from the Cubans or Russians in assassinating President Kennedy.

In fact, David Atlee Phillips writes in "The Night Watch," none of the CIA personnel in Mexico City had ever heard of Oswald, and were unaware that he had defected to the Soviet Union, married a Russian, and then returned to the United States.

CIA surveillance, Phillips wrote, showed that Oswald visited the Soviet embassy in an attempt to return to Russia and wanted to go via Cuba.

He said a file check with Washington normally would have been instituted, but all the agents were so busy they did not get around to it until the wife of an agent took it upon herself to compose the cable.

Even then, he said, she mistook Oswald's middle name as "Henry" and relayed a faulty physical description of him.

The reason for this, Phillips said, was that the wife had not read about Oswald but "heard" about him—presumably from some clandestine source—and was working phonetically.